

Head Quarters 1st Division 19th A.C.
Franklin La.

February 1st 1864.

My Dear Sister,

I hardly know what excuse to make for being so delinquent in writing to you - not only to you in particular, but to almost every body else, except - dear mother and I do not write to her as often as I ~~ought~~ ought to.

I would not have you think because I have not written to you oftener, that I have forgotten you, or have been unmindful of you in the least, for I am sure such thoughts would be entirely void, and I trust that you harbor no such thoughts. The fact of it is that I am no letter writer any more than father is, It is an awful hard task for me to sit down and write a letter, which had ought to be a pleasure to me instead of dreading it as bad as I used to my Algebra recitation to Miss Borrew,

You probably have had a good long visit
with Garrison long before this time, and he has
told all about us, and how we get along, so there would
be no use of my ^{writing} it. ^{Just} that I was there
with him, I believe we could have a good time,
but never mind I have but a year and a half
longer to work for "Uncle Sam" and then, if I live
untill then I will be home for good,

I should like very well to be there now to take a
sleigh ride or go skating on the pond. some of
these moonlight nights as I used to, but show
what's the use of thinking about such things as long
as I have got to stay here, I may as well be con-
tented as any other way.

I see by your letter that you have got a wrong
idea about my looks, your dreams turn out about
as all dreams do, right the opposite exactly.

Instead of my looking as you describe in your dreams
I am looking better, healthier, and fleshier, than you
ever saw me before, unless it was when I was small,
I cannot call my self ^{very} small now, for I think I am
the largest one of the family, I am nearly two inches
taller ^{now} than I was when enlisted, that's all owing to the
good victuals ^{we get} I suppose. such as "hard back", "salt horse"

Yc, I have no fault to find my living at present, nor have I ^{had} at any time, but I have wished a great many times to get a cold bite out of Mother's cupboard. There is seven of us here clerks & orderlies. we have a dorkie to cook for us and have a large tent to sit the table in, and we have plenty to put upon. such as it is, so we can find no fault for it is a great deal better than I used to get when with the company. My duty is very light. I have hardly enough to do for my own good.

I heard that Uncle Sam had gone home on a furlough I don't know whether it is true or not. I hope so, for he never was fit for a soldier and never will be. The last time I saw him ~~was~~ he was looking very bad indeed.

The Steamboat ~~it~~ has just got through whistling away down the bayou. to let us know that she is coming, we probably will get a mail. I hope so for it is time I got a letter from home. I have not got any the last two mails.

Well but I think I have written quite a long letter for me. and it is getting about bed time so I will adieu. From your Affot Brother. J. G. Brand

There may have to me better